



Comprehensive Critical Response Services

Our CRISIS Team provides a strategic approach to helping schools effectively manage unexpected and paralyzing events that inhibit daily operations. We help districts coordinate and expedite decision-making and action steps in the aftermath of a crisis. Whether your district needs help coordinating administrative support to return to normal daily operations, coordinating psychological support services for victims, managing the media, or guidance in facilitating school district communications, our Team of experts has the experience and knowledge to provide assistance every step of the way through:

- Prevention and preparation training
- Facilitating daily operations
- Coordinating response and recovery
- Managing communications and the media

*“Coordination is the key to effectively handling response and recovery.”
- Dr. Evan Pitkoff*

Planning for the Aftermath

This professional development session will train school and district administrators to be more proactive in their planning and management in the aftermath of a major incident or other unexpected events that stop the daily operations of a school and/or district. In addition to this CRISIS Response training, the C.E.S. Crisis Response Team can provide schools and districts with a comprehensive readiness assessment of their current preparedness planning.



Possible Crises in Schools

- Disgruntled employee
- Disgruntled parent
- Protests
- Policy violations
- School bus accidents
- Fires
- Evacuations
- Staff misconduct
- School shootings
- Bomb threats
- Death of a student
- Death of a staff member
- Natural disasters (hurricanes, floods, etc.)
- Community tragedies
- Traffic accidents
- At-risk students



For More Information

C.E.S. CRISIS Services
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www.ces.k12.ct.us/CRISIS

CRISIS.

Critical Response & Intervention Services in Schools



Providing a team of professionals to assist and manage the response and recovery from unexpected events that interrupt daily operations in a school district.





A crisis is any unexpected incident or event that disrupts and often halts the normal daily operations of a school and/or district. This can range from student protests and the media frenzy that ensues to tragic loss of life. Even with well-developed crisis procedures, the nuances of each type of crisis are difficult to anticipate.

When a crisis occurs and dealing with the aftermath is beyond the capacity of the school district, our highly-qualified CRISIS Team is available to provide guidance and a comprehensive support system.

Our CRISIS Team members can be requested at any time of need. When resources are critical, the C.E.S. CRISIS Team is ready and equipped to coordinate, facilitate and serve the immediate needs of those affected by the crisis while preserving the integrity of the school district.

*“Plans are worthless,
but planning is
everything.”
- Dwight D. Eisenhower*

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The CRISIS Team



Evan Pitkoff, Ed.D.
Executive Director

Dr. Evan Pitkoff has more than 34 years of educational experience including 12 years as an urban high school building administrator in New York and Connecticut and more than 18 years as a central office leader for a variety of school systems in Connecticut. He has successfully dealt with several events that disrupted the educational process and that received local and national media attention (such as a student walk-out over a dress code policy and student art display controversy.) In 1993, as the Principal of New Britain High School, Dr. Pitkoff led the school through its most difficult time when a student was murdered in front of the building an hour before the start of the school day. As the former Superintendent of Schools in Newtown, Connecticut, Dr. Pitkoff worked behind the scenes in the wake of tragedy to assist the district in providing counseling and administrative resources and in coordinating the effort to procure a new site and furnishings for the temporary school. Dr. Pitkoff oversees all C.E.S. services provided to school districts.



Christopher La Belle
Associate Executive Director

Mr. Christopher La Belle has more than 16 years of educational experience including nine years as an urban elementary school principal in Connecticut. He has successfully dealt with several events that disrupted the educational process such as school bus accidents and medical emergencies for both staff and students. Mr. La Belle was the 2009 Magnet Schools of America Northeast Regional Principal of the Year. He is a veteran of the United States Army where he served as a military police officer. He also holds a degree in Journalism and has worked professionally in public and community relations for one of Connecticut's largest hospitals. Mr. LaBelle oversees C.E.S. school-based programs, Personnel, and provides support to all C.E.S. divisions.

The CRISIS Team



Michael Regan, Ph.D.
Director of Special Education

Dr. Michael Regan has more than 30 years of educational experience including classroom teacher, bilingual school psychologist and 15 years as a director of pupil services. He has aided in the recovery following two school shootings, one in New Britain, Connecticut and the other in Newtown, Connecticut. He also provided recovery after a school bus accident involving the death of a three year old in Waterbury, Connecticut. Dr. Regan has been a member of the Connecticut State Behavioral Health Crisis Response Team since 2002, and has responded to a multitude of crisis events such as student deaths, death of a school staff person, bomb threats, school evacuations, and relocation of students. Dr. Regan has also responded to psychiatric emergencies both as a school clinician and as part of a mobile psychiatric service. He has participated in disaster training conducted in the state since 2002, and also worked at the Crisis Stabilization program at Veteran's hospital in Meriden.



Matt Engelhardt
Public Relations and Marketing Specialist

Mr. Matt Engelhardt joined C.E.S. in 2014 after a successful career as a journalist and college communication specialist. An experienced education writer, he's covered numerous sensitive topics related to issues like school safety and built strong relationships with district administrators. After making the transition to higher education communications, Matt became the chief spokesman and media liaison for Goodwin College and its growing magnet school system. In that role, Matt helped the College and its schools through news crises and established great rapport with local media members. He holds a double degree in English and Journalism from the University of Connecticut.

We are available in times of need. To request our services during or immediately following your emergency, call 203-365-8803.